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ON TAP

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A LOOK BACK AT 2011

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, TCWD would like to look back at the major events from 2011:

The Effects of the 2010 Storm Event

The December 2010 storm event has had long-lasting effects on the District's service area. Much of the damage was discussed at length in the January and February issues of On Tap. Please see these issues at the District's website at www.tcwd.ca.gov. At the time of this writing, there still remain three active projects of the total fourteen FEMA-funded projects. These projects vary in scope and are in different areas of the District.



A View of the Santiago Creek Transmission Line

The most significant project which remains to be completed is the Santiago Creek Transmission Line project, which is the District's primary source of untreated water to the Dimension Water Treatment

Plant. The site was adversely impacted and the pipeline lost a substantial amount of soil cover from the deluge of rain water. It is important to note that it is FEMA's goal to restore damaged infrastructure of facilities to their original condition prior to a storm event. In this instance, the replacement of any soil cover is not possible due to several factors, which include the fact that the pipeline is suspended more than fifty feet above the creek bed and there is no feasible access to allow for any repair.

Initially, the project was denied by FEMA for funding any type of repair, but the District immediately appealed the decision. The District based its appeal to FEMA on the fact that a similar storm within the next five years would likely result in failure of the pipeline. TCWD has received confirmation from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) of their support of the District's appeal. It is now before FEMA to approve the necessary funds for the redirection of the District's Santiago Creek Transmission Line. TCWD will continue to keep you informed on the Santiago Creek Transmission Line Project as it progresses in 2012.

Trabuco Creek Wells Facility

In February 2010, the District broke ground on the Trabuco Creek Wells Facility. The construction of this state of the art facility continued through the beginning of 2011. The facility was online for equipment testing by late February and as a result of the storm event, there was an abundance of groundwater in the wells to do so. Furthermore, the District held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Facility on Friday, May 6, 2011.

The event was well attended by community leaders, District staff, and the consultants and contractors who were integral in the design and construction of this facility. TCWD Board Vice President Ed Mandich spoke about the history of the wells site and the reasons behind the construction of the new facility. Also, County of Orange Supervisor Bill Campbell presented the District and Board of Directors with a certificate recognizing TCWD's dedication to preserving local water resources.

TCWD's Annual Water Awareness Open House event was held at the Facility the next day, Saturday, May 7, 2011. This was a great opportunity for District customers and other local residents to learn about the protection of natural resources, such as the local groundwater in these District-owned wells. Attendees learned how the water from these seasonal wells is used to offset purchased water, which translates into a savings for the District and its customers.

Some of the exciting features of the event included a photographic timeline of the project's history, which included before and after pictures, as well as original design renderings for the facility. There was an opportunity for the public to see the advanced facility and operational computer software. Also, the pumps and other mechanical equipment which draws the water from the wells were available for viewing. As always, some of the larger District vehicles were on site for fun family photos.

DISTRICT METER DISCUSSION

In order to ensure District customers are accurately billed, TCWD's meter readers read every meter in the District's service area once a month. There are some instances when the meter readers find landscaped areas that have overgrown, or there have been changes made to the property which prevent them from their work.

TCWD requires that all water meters be free of obstruction to allow for the reading of meters and emergency repairs. It is important that the meter reader have safe access to the meter at all times, which includes the initial landscaping and any subsequent modifications. This allows the meter readers to complete their job in a safe and time-efficient manner.

When a customer signs up for new service with TCWD, the customer completes a New Service Confirmation for service which explains that the property owner is liable for damages to the meter and/or meter box by the landscape contractor. This is due to the fact that the meter has an electrical component which is integral to the monthly reads, and as such, cannot be tampered with or moved without inspection and written permission by TCWD.

If you have experienced any issues with your water meter, please feel free to contact customer service to schedule an inspection.

MAIN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The District Main Office is scheduled to be closed for the observance of the following holidays:

Christmas Holidays:	Friday, December 23, 2011
	Monday, December 26, 2011
New Year's Holiday:	Monday, January 2, 2012

Please feel free to stop in to conduct any District business or ask questions concerning your service during normal business hours. TCWD's Board Members and Staff wish all a happy Holiday Season and wonderful New Year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on November 16, 2011, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Status update relating to Storm Damage
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Approval of Resolution 2011-1163 fixing the Employer's Contribution under the Public Employee's Medical and Hospital Care Act.
- Discussion relating to adjustment to sewer flat fees.
- Discussion regarding the fines imposed on SMWD by the SDRWQCB.